

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the method performed at least partially by a computer system, and comprising:

providing a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

providing a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the decision period, the plurality of option value prices determined at least partially by the computer system;
and

determining a stock price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices during the second part of the decision period.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising prorating transfer of the employee stock options, by transfer of less than a tendered number of options.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein prorating is proportional across all transferred options.

4. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein prorating is by first election for transfer first transferred.
5. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value prices uses an option pricing formula.
6. (original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the option pricing formula is selected from the group consisting of Black-Scholes, binomial and trinomial methods.
7. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing a plurality of option value prices provides the plurality of prices in an option-price grid.
8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining a stock price further comprises determining an average stock trading price over a predetermined period of time.
9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein determining a stock price further comprises determining a stock trading price at a predetermined point in time.
10. (currently amended) A method for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the method performed at least partially by a computer system, and comprising:

providing a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options
from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options;
providing a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;
providing an option value price during each decision period, the option value
price determined at least partially by the computer system; and
using an option pricing formula with the computer system to determine the option
value price.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further
comprising:
electing transfer of an employee stock option during a particular decision period;
and
executing an order for transfer of the employee stock option without exercise of
the stock option after the particular decision period.

12. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising:
electing transfer of employee stock options during a particular decision period;
and
prorating transfer of the employee stock options without exercise of the stock
options, by transfer of less than a tendered number of options.

13. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein prorating is
proportional across all transferred options.

14. (original) A method according to claim 12, wherein prorating is by first election for transfer first transferred.

15. (currently amended) A computer system for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

means for providing a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

means for providing a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the decision period; and

means for determining a stock price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices during the second part of the decision period.

16. (currently amended) A computer system for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the system comprising:

means for providing a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options;

means for providing a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

means for providing an option value price during each decision period; and

means for using an option pricing formula to determine the option value price.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the decision period; and

code to determine a stock price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices during the second part of the decision period.

19. (currently amended) A programmed computer for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a decision period for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options, the decision period having a first part, and a second part;

code to provide a plurality of option value prices during the first part of the

decision period; and

code to determine a stock price corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of option value prices during the second part of the decision period.

20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, the code comprising:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to provide an option value price during each decision period; and

code to use an option pricing formula to determine the option value price.

22. (currently amended) A programmed computer for transfer of previously issued employee stock options without exercise of the stock options, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and

a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory, wherein the program code comprises:

code to provide a plurality of transfer periods for transfer of employee stock

options from employees holding the stock options to a first party without exercise of the stock options;

code to provide a plurality of decision periods during each transfer period;

code to provide an option value price during each decision period; and

code to use an option pricing formula to determine the option value price.

23. (new) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first party is not an employer of the employee.